

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 AGR-20 NEA-11 IO-14 OIC-04 AF-10 DRC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5392

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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SUBJ: ENERGY: IRISH REACTION TO WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: IRISH MEDIA HAS GIVEN RELATIVELY MODERATE COVERAGE TO
WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, WITH ONLY IRISH TIMES PROVIDING

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MUCH INFO. TIMES STRESSED THAT IRELAND HAD TAKEN "NEUTRAL"

POSITION. TRYING TO WORK OUT COMPROMISE ON CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP VIA OECD MACHINERY, IN ORDER MAINTAIN COHESION OF EC. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW-UP WITH IRISH DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO AVAILABLE ON IRISH PARTICIPATION IN WASHINGTON TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. FEB. 14 IRISH TIMES REPORTED IRELAND TOOK "NEUTRAL STAND" AT WASHINGTON MEETING. TIMES REPORTED DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATED FEB. 13 THAT IRISH INTERVENTION IN TALKS WAS DIRECTED PARTICULARLY AT MAINTAINING COHESION OF EC NINE. PRINCIPAL CONCERN OF IRISH DELEGATION WAS THAT DECISIONS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION OF ENERGY CRISIS IN MANNER WHICH WOULD NOT PREJUDICE SOLIDARITY OF COMMUNITY. IRELAND BELIEVED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FUTURE WORK SHOULD BE CARRIED ON BY EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY OECD, IN COOPERATION WITH PRODUCER AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IRISH RADIO NEWS FEB. 14 QUOTED FIONAN FITZGERALD ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

2. TIMES REPORTED IRISH TRIED TO ENSURE THAT FOLLOW-UP TALKS SHOULD BE HELD UNDER OECD AUSPICES AND ALSO WANTED COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PROGRAM PREPARED BY CONFERENCE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF OECD. TIMES SAID THESE PROPOSALS WERE NOT SUPPORTED, HOWEVER.

3. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT FEB. 13 (WRITTEN PRIOR TO END OF CONFERENCE), PRO-OPPOSITION IRISH PRESS NOTED FAILURE OF EC TO FIND INTERNAL AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, REGIONAL POLICY, AND NOW OIL. PRESS SAID CURRENT "CRIES OF DESPAIR" HAD BEEN SPARKED BY FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD WASHINGTON TALKS. PRESS CRITICIZED FACT THAT FIONAN FITZGERALD HAD REPORTEDLY REMOVED HIS NAME FROM LIST OF SPEAKERS, SAYING "IT MIGHT WELL BE THAT, DEPENDING SO MUCH AS WE DO, ON THE SUPPORT OF FRANCE IN OUR DRIVE FOR HIGHER AGRICULTURAL PRICES WE DO NOT WISH TO OFFEND PARIS. BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN LONG-TERM NECESSITY MUST OVERCOME IMMEDIATE EXPEDIENCY." EDITORIAL HOPED THAT FIONAN WAS POURING OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS BEHIND SCENES.

4. IRISH TIMES EDITORIAL FEB. 13 STRESSED DIVISIONS BETWEEN US AND FRANCE, STATING THAT FRENCH RESENTED WHAT THEY REGARDED AS US ATTEMPT TO REINSTATE ITS AUTHORITY IN EUROPE. TIMES WENT ON HOWEVER:
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"THERE IS CERTAINLY SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THE FRENCH VIEW THAT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE IS REGARDED AS PROVOCATIVE BY THE ARABS. NOTHING WILL BE GAINED BY GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CONSUMER-NATIONS ARE GANGING UP ON THE PRODUCER-NATIONS. THIS MAY BE WHY IRELAND, AT THE TIME OF WRITING, HAS ADOPTED A NEUTRAL STANCE, WHILE WORKING FOR A COMPROMISE.

"THE ARABS, THE RUSSIANS AND THE FRENCH GENERALLY ADVOCATE RECOURSE TO SUCH A BODY AS THE UNITED NATIONS - OR THE O.E.C.D. -

RATHER THAN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ORGANIZATION. IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW DR. KISSINGER'S PROPOSALS CAN PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION, WHEN FACED WITH THIS KIND OF GLOBAL OPPOSITION. THERE ARE SIGNS THAT ARAB UNITY ON THE PRICE AND DISTRIBUTION OF OIL IS BEGINNING TO SHAKE APART; BUT THIS SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE THE WESTERN CONSUMER-NATIONS TO MAKE THE WRONG SORT OF GESTURE."

5. TIMES FEB. 14 EDITORIAL ALSO STRESSED FRENCH VIEWS, NOTING THAT WHILE US CAN HOPE TO END FUEL IMPORTS BY 1980, EUROPE AND JAPAN WILL CONTINUE TO RELY HEAVILY ON MIDDLE EAST OIL AND THEREFORE MUST TAKE PARTICULAR CARE NOT TO OFFEND ARABS. TIMES NOTED FAILURE OF IRISH EFFORT TO ACHIEVE COMPROMISE INVOLVING OECD MACHINERY IN WASHINGTON CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP AND STATED THAT WHILE UNITY OF EC HAD TAKEN "ANOTHER KNOCK," "PARTNERS STILL HAVE TOO MUCH TO LOSE TO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE BROKEN APART EVEN BY THE ENERGY CRISIS." MOORE

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